

57. Need for redressing the grievances of the ryots of Nanjinad in the matter of agricultural operations.

Mr. M. Sivathanu Pillai (Member, Agastiswaram taluk) thanked the Government on behalf of the ryots of Nanjinad for the action taken in regard to the establishment of an Irrigation Board, and requested that the Board might be constituted as soon as possible and placed on a statutory basis. He then pressed the following for the consideration of Government :—

(1) The need for constructing a road between Thamarakulam and Parakay, about two miles long, had been brought to the notice of Government frequently. The lands required for the purpose were given free of compensation by the ryots so far back as 1047. The road was very necessary for the ryots for the transport of manure, etc., to about 3,000 acres of lands. The Peishkar and the P. W. D. authorities who inspected the place admitted the necessity for the road. So long ago as in 1076, an estimate was prepared for Rs. 1,800 but nothing further had been done. He requested that the road might be opened at a very early date.

(2) Applications for remission of tax owing to *tharisu*, *karivu* and *azhukichetham* were not dealt with in a sympathetic spirit. Owing to want of sufficient water in the reservoir, some of the lands at the tail end of the commanded area suffered. The Revenue authorities were satisfied with it on local inspection. Yet, remission was refused on the ground that the entire commanded area had sufficient supply of water. Rules should be passed allowing remission in all real cases of *tharisu*, *karivu* and *azhukichetham*.

(3) On account of the establishment of toll-gates in the Cape and the Balamore roads, the people of Tovala and Agastiswaram taluks were obliged to pay a large sum in the shape of toll-fees. Business often took them to Nagercoil, where the public institutions were located. Government had granted the concession of free passes in favour of the people of Suchindram. The people of Nagercoil had not also to pay any toll. In view of the hardship to the villagers who had to pay the toll, the Member prayed that the tolls might be abolished.

(4) The Pazhayar should be broadened and deepened from Suchindram as far as the Manakudi *kayal*, so as to prevent the inundation of the adjoining fields.

(5) Permission should be given to the adjoining ryots to plant manure trees on *poramboke* bunds.

(6) The construction of the big sluice in the Parakay tank to let in water to Palkulam had the effect of clearing that tank to the serious detriment of 1,600 acres served by the tank. The old and smaller sluice served the purpose very well by letting in the required water to the Palkulam and retaining also sufficient quantity to irrigate the Parakay lands. The subject had been represented at the last session of the Assembly, and no action had been taken for closing the new sluice. A small sluice should be put up at the place and the present one closed.

(7) A correct equivalent of the Nanjanad *marakal* should be ascertained and fixed as repeatedly prayed for in previous sessions. It was desirable to appoint a Committee to enquire into the whole question and submit a report to Government.

(8) The notification published in the Gazette prohibiting the transport of paddy or rice from Nanjanad to other parts of the State should be cancelled.

Dewan's reply.—With reference to the representation regarding the drainage of water from the Parakay tank, I shall inspect the locality. The other points are noted.

58. Agriculture in South Travancore.

Mr. N. Kunjan Pillai (Member, T. I. C., Colachel) said that, with the completion of the Kodayar Irrigation scheme, the several irrigation tanks in the Eraniel taluk ceased to be maintained and became silted up. There were about 2,100 acres of lands in Midalam, Kizhmidalam, Nattalam, Killiyur and Kizhkulam *pakuthies* which were not served at all by the Kodayar channels. The result was that crops had been

failing continuously for the last seven years through want of water and causing loss both to Government and the people alike. To remove the grievance, he requested that the proposed Pattanamkal which was intended to supply water to those parts should be constructed without delay.

A large area of garden lands under the Kodayar channels had been converted into wet lands, and an equally extensive area was awaiting such conversion. But, as the water supplied by the channels was not sufficient for the purposes of cultivation, the crops often suffered by *karivu*. That could be avoided by increasing the capacity of the Pechipara Reservoir by raising the height of the dam by 5 feet and by widening the channels. The Member also pleaded for the speedy construction of the channels originally contemplated for distributing the water from the Left Bank Channel.

He then referred to certain water-logged fields within the area commanded by the project and observed that, in spite of the protests of their owners, the lands were charged with water cess. He requested that (1) the cess on those lands should not be collected till the water-logging was removed, or (2) immediate action should be taken to remove the water-logging, or (3) remission of assessment should be allowed for *azhukichetham* till the water-logging was removed. Some roads had also to be opened to provide the ryots with facilities to take manure, cattle, &c., to the paddy fields. Greater facilities should be afforded for the removal of green manure from the forests. It was also necessary that cattle breeding should be specially encouraged by providing grazing lands wherever possible.

A Committee on the lines suggested by Mr. T. Kumara Pillai, Member, Kalkulam taluk, should be formed to enquire into the measures to be adopted to promote agriculture in the State and to remove all obstacles in its way.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

59. Grievances of the ryots of the Vilavankod taluk and suggestions for remedying them.

Mr. N. Sankaranarayana Pillai (Member, Vilavankod taluk) represented that, though the Kuzhithura river was running through the taluk, there was no means of utilising its water for irrigation purposes. There were some irrigation tanks in the taluk. But, when some years ago the Right Bank Channel of the Kodayar Project was proposed to be cut, the annual allotment for the maintenance of the tanks was stopped. Since that time, crops were continuously failing for want of timely supply of water. He understood that there was no likelihood of the Right Bank Channel being taken up for construction, as the water in the Pechipara Reservoir was not sufficient for irrigating even the area commanded by the Left Bank Channel. He, therefore, requested that the Mannanpara dam near Kakachal about 6 miles down the Pechipara Reservoir might be properly re-constructed and a channel cut to the Vilavankod taluk to take off water to the paddy lands thirsting for water. He estimated the cost at 10 lakhs of rupees. If that was not possible, the old irrigation tanks should be repaired and an annual allotment provided for their maintenance.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

60. Agricultural needs of the Neyyattinkara taluk.

Mr. A. Kesava Pillai (Member, Neyyattinkara taluk) gave a lengthy description of the economic poverty of the people and traced it to the failure of crops due to want of water, the gradual silting up of some of the irrigation tanks and their conversion into garden lands—either registered as holdings or encroachments—and the consequent inability of storing water for purposes of cultivation. The following were mentioned as the agricultural needs of the taluk:—

(1) The abandonment of the Right Bank Channel under the Kodayar Irrigation Scheme was a source of grievance to them.

(2) In the first group of *pakuthies* represented by the Member, there was one important *chira* and 805 tanks. On inspection it would be found that not only